

The House of Habsburg influenced strongly the political history of Europe and had impact on its social and cultural development. Poles are also part of that history. From the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century until the beginning of the First World War the Habsburgs were decisive to a major extent when it comes to social and political transformations occurring in the territory of the subordinate Galicia. A closer look at that history will allow for fulfilling the so-far unwritten cards of the history of the Habsburgs and Europe, including Galicia. The reason for undertaking such research subject is the fact that it has not been explored in a form of a modern and complex study yet. Currently, we are in disposal of incomplete and dispersed information relating to separate groups treated as social and political elites of the time. The aim of the project is to prepare a monograph including a systematized and modern study on the influence of the Habsburgs and the state authorities subordinate to them on shaping secular and civilian elites in Galicia. The research shall refer to urban and rural elites, governmental elites, entrepreneurs and the intelligentsia. The reasons for the fall of some of the abovementioned social classes (related to, for instance, the Old Polish nobility) and for the emergence of new environments serving elitist functions, such as people gathered around municipal governments, economic self-governments and the intelligentsia, will be explained. During the realization of the present project, research concerning the most important archival sources for the topic described, which usually have not been explored yet (at least in this context), will be conducted. Among the archives and libraries, there will be the ones in Vienna (Austrian State Archives, Parliament Archives and University of Vienna Archives) and in Lviv (Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv and State Archives of Lviv Oblast). Additional research will be carried out in the Academic Library of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, State Archives of Ivano-Frankivsk, Charles University in Prague Archives, Prague City Archives, the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, The Ossolineum in Wrocław, the National Archives in Krakow, Scientific Library of Polish Academy of Learning and Polish Academy of Sciences, Archives of Science of Polish Academy of Sciences and Polish Academy of Learning in Krakow, National Archives in Przemyśl and National Archives in Rzeszów. In order to study Galician elites, it will be necessary to utilize the prosopographic method, as well as the representative and statistical ones. Moreover, in detailed analysis, the systems analysis method and the consequent comparative method will be used.